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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Shigeru SHIRAI et al. Confirmation No.: (not yet assigned)

Appln. No.: 10/525,770✓ Group Art Unit: (not yet assigned)

Filed: February 28, 2005 Examiner: (not yet assigned)

For: SANITARY WASHING APPARATUS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98, Applicant hereby calls to the Examiner's attention the following documents which were cited in the International Search Report mailed November 11, 2003 (and filed in the U.S.P.T.O. with the present application on February 28, 2005) for counterpart International Application PCT/JP2003/010677:

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 10/311078 A, along with an English language Abstract and Partial translation thereof;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2002-22217 A, along with an English-language Abstract and partial translation thereof;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 11-315574 A, along with an English-language Abstract and partial translation thereof;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2001-279780 A, along with an English-language Abstract and partial translation thereof;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 5-79085 A, along with an English-language Abstract and partial translation thereof;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2002-186993 A, along with an English-language Abstract and partial translation thereof;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 5-214570 A, along with an English-language Abstract and partial translation thereof;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 9-66285 A, along with an English-language Abstract and partial translation thereof;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2000-220193 A, along with an English-language Abstract and partial translation thereof;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2001-348940 A, along with an English-language Abstract and partial translation thereof;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2001-132055 A, along with an English-language Abstract and partial translation thereof;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2000-213038 A, along with an English-language Abstract and partial translation thereof;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2001-279781 A, along with an English-language Abstract and partial translation thereof; and

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2002-227275 A, along with an English-language Abstract thereof.

In addition, Applicant also wishes to bring to the Examiner's attention the following documents:

Japanese Patent No. 2795359, along with an English-language Abstract;

Japanese Patent No. 3282560, which corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 6,163,990, along with an English-language Abstract;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 8-93034, along with an English-language Abstract and partial translation thereof;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 7-163958, along with an English-language Abstract and partial translation thereof;

Japanese Patent Publication No. 11-114298, along with an English language abstract thereof. This is the same application as Japanese Patent No. 3282560 noted above;

International Patent Application Publication No. WO 97/03255, which corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 5,970,528;

U.S. Patent No. 6,163,990;

U.S. Patent No. 5,970,528; and

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/341,445, filed January 14, 2003.

Applicant notes that copies of the above-listed foreign documents are enclosed for the convenience of the Examiner.

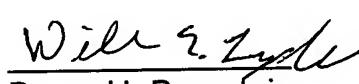
Furthermore, the relevance of the above-noted documents to the claims of the counterpart International Application has been noted by the International Examiner on the International Search Report, which was filed along with the present application on February 28, 2005.

Also, further to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's decision to waive the requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(iii) if the U.S. patent application has been either scanned into the image file wrapper system or was filed after June 30, 2003, a copy of the U.S. patent application is also not enclosed herewith. However, if a copy is needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the above-noted materials and cite the same. Each of the above-noted documents are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449, and the Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached Form and to return a copy of the completed Form to Applicant with the next official communication in the present application.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shigeru SHIRAI et al.


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P26896.P06

FORM PTO-1449

U.S. Department of Commerce
Patent and Trademark OfficeAtty. Docket No.
P26896Application No.
10/525,770INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
BY APPLICANT
(Use several sheets if necessary)Applicant
February 28, 2005Filing Date
Shigeru SHIRAI et al.Group
Not Yet assigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		6 1 6 3 9 9 0	12/26/00	URATA et al.			
		5 9 7 0 5 2 8	10/26/99	SHIRAI et al.			
		6 1 6 3 9 9 0	12/26/99	URATA et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES	NO
	10	/ 3 1 1 0 7 8	11/24/98	JAPAN			X	
	2002-	2 2 2 1 7	01/23/02	JAPAN			X	
	11	- 3 1 5 5 7 4	11/16/99	JAPAN			X	
	2001	- 2 7 9 7 8 0	10/10/01	JAPAN			X	
	5	- 0 7 9 0 8 5	03/30/93	JAPAN			X	
	2002	- 1 8 6 9 9 3	07/02/02	JAPAN			X	
	5	- 2 1 4 5 7 0	08/24/93	JAPAN			X	
	9	- 6 6 2 8 5	03/11/97	JAPAN			X	
	2000	- 2 2 0 1 9 3	08/08/00	JAPAN			X	
	2001	- 3 4 8 9 4 0	12/21/01	JAPAN			X	
	2001	- 1 3 2 0 5 5	05/15/01	JAPAN			X	
	2000	- 2 1 3 0 3 8	08/02/00	JAPAN			X	
	2001	- 2 7 9 7 8 1	10/10/01	JAPAN			X	
	2002	- 2 2 7 2 7 5	08/14/02	JAPAN				
		2 7 9 5 3 5 9	06/26/98	JAPAN				

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	1	English language Abstract of JP 10-311078.
	2	English language Abstract of JP 2002-22217.
	3	English language Abstract of JP 11-315574.
	4	English language Abstract of JP 201-279780.
	5	English language Abstract of JP 5-79085.
	6	English language Abstract of JP 2002-186993.
	7	English language Abstract of JP 5-214570.
	8	English language Abstract of JP 9-66285.
	9	English language Abstract of JP 2000-220193.
	10	English language Abstract of JP 2001-348940.
	11	English language Abstract of JP 2001-132055.

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.